

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Cement Factories near Opole
2. Paper Factory at Krapkowice
3. Civilian Population of Silesia

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1. Four or five Portland cement factories located between Opole and Gogolin, which were dismantled after World War II, have been put back into operation and are now producing lime and cement. Most of the machinery in the plants is in very poor condition and some of the plants' air-filtering systems are not operating properly. As a result, cement dust from some of the plants has settled in a thick layer over the entire area within ten km. of the cement factories. Paper sacks for the cement manufactured in the plants are in short supply. Therefore, much of the manufactured cement is stored in silos in the neighborhood or else dumped in huge piles on the ground around the plants. Emergency sheds have been constructed over the cement piles to keep the cement from getting wet.
2. Before World War II, the paper sacks for the cement plants were produced in the paper factory at Krapkowice. This paper factory was dismantled after World War II, but has since been put back into operation on a makeshift basis. The factory is not operating efficiently, and tremendous quantities of waste products have been dumped into the Oder River with the result that the Oder is polluted for fifty miles below the paper factory. Only poor-quality paper is produced in the factory and the shortage of sacks in the cement plants near Opole is believed to be due to the fact that the paper factory at Krapkowice has not been able to keep production at the necessary level.
3. The population of Opole is believed to be about 60% German and the population of Wroclaw and Gliwice about 40% German. Many of the Germans are former inhabitants of these cities who disguised their nationality and remained in Poland in hopes of retaining some of their prewar property. The Poles who have moved into Silesia are very unsure of themselves and often do not settle or work in one place very long. Neither the Germans nor the Poles believe that the Oder-Neisse line will be the permanent border between Poland and Germany. Both the Poles and the Germans in Silesia are decidedly anti-Communist. Although active resistance to the Communists appears to be almost non-existent, almost everyone listens to foreign radio broadcasts and hopes for a change in the political situation.

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